To the Editor

An open letter to up valley residents

I have received letters in response to my inquiries into my proposed uses of the Post Office building in Carbondale, responses were received from: Senator J. Heinz through State Senator Robert Mellow; the county commissioners office by Mr. H.D. Lindsay, Department of Community Affairs; and Mr. Wargo (telephone) who promised to get in touch with Congressman McDade. While two of the responses were optimistic, one was negative in its information.

To clarify my position, I am not in favor of Carbondale acquiring this building for its own use. I am in favor of the county, state, or federal government keeping it. I have learned a lesson from the buying or selling or property by local governments. I don't believe that the city fathers make very good real estate agents.

After studying and inquiring about the over load system in the County Court House and the sometime chaotic conditions that exist, I am in favor of an upper valley court house with the use of local magistrates and court masters conducting and hearing cases involving local upper valley people. I am not talking criminal cases. I am talking civil and juvenille cases which are already overloading county court; including nuisance cases, divorce cases, licensing bureaus and special permits, etc.

It sure would save time and expense. We also have a local attorney who serves on the District Attorney's staff who could be available for night service for our local police. Instead of driving a person for arraignment to Moscow, it could be accomplished here. One case took one of our already depleted police force officers away from our area for six hours. That left one man on duty.

What aggravates me is, the postal service has the right to sell our property to whomever they please. I ask questions on how they became the owners? The Post Office department was always in the red and subsidized by the general account of the federal budget to keep it operating. Then a few years ago it became non-cabinet and liberalized to operate without taxes and thereby increased the cost of all mail services. However, look at the Roman Numeral date on the Post Office -- MCMXI, which means 1911. Who paid for it all these years? Who gave the right to the postal service to sell it? If this is the case, then I want, as a taxpayer, my portion of the selling price. They are selling our property without our permission.

Think about it! You have already let us, the city fathers, past and present, sell the Crane Armory, the M&M Bank Building and the Ben Franklin building. What kind of deals did we make? I think Mr. Evancho and Mr. Adams are improving those two buildings constantly, and they will again be a credit to the community.

The point I am trying to get across is: If you the people, not only of Carbondale but the entire upper valley, do not show some affirmative action and support, then do not blame city council of Carbondale for this failure; blame yourselves. This includes the area, every comomunity, and everyone from Route 6 "Congestion Wall" (the highway in front of Sugermans) to Vandling. We would appreciate support from these communities also.

Thanks again,

Albert "Abe" Calzola
Councilman
City of Carbondale